T.J. Masters

AP Literature and Composition

Portfolio Reflections

Title Analysis Reflection

Talking to previous students of this course about the Title Analysis assignment, I have heard horror stories about the difficultness of it. The tasked seemed relatively easy at first glance, but once I started writing, I had a complete change of attitude on the subject. After I had my questions sorted out, however, I feel that the words flowed from my fingertips, and the paper was done in no time whatsoever. I was satisfied with the paper, and the minimum amount of revisions that I had to complete. In fact, in my first reflection I stated that wanted to have zero skills pages for at least one paper this semester as a goal, and I would have accomplished this feat, except I made probably the dumbest mistake in my life regarding a works cited. At least I didn’t screw up enough to warrant a skills page in the body of the paper. I’ll consider the goal accomplished.

I think what really led me to success with the Title Analysis was the poem that I chose. Before I go into it, I feel the need to add a little history of poetry and me. Throughout the entire time the class was studying poetry and its devices, I would rely on my peers to decipher the poem. Even though English is probably my all-time favorite subject in school, something about poetry—and Shakespeare, but that’s another story—makes it a completely foreign language in my mind. I have the hardest time trying to get the central messages out of poems. However, the poem that I chose, “Barbie Doll”, was unlike any other that I have read. I immediately understood exactly what the poem was trying to accomplish and, for that reason, fell in love with it. I really enjoyed its commentary on society’s views of beauty and perfection. I think I will check out more works from this author in the future.

I feel that since my freshman year, my writing has improved drastically, and this paper is concrete proof of that. Every now and then I look at the enormous binder that is my writing portfolio from ninth and tenth grades and then pick up the one inch binder from last year’s English class and compare the two. The differences between them are night and day. As I have matured myself, so has my writing. I’m very excited to see how much more my writing can improve. I have always wanted to do something with writing in my life, but never thought that I had the potential to do so, until this year. Although I still don’t know if I will incorporate writing into a career (I honestly don’t want to become *that* guy sitting in Starbucks clad in a black turtleneck, handlebar mustache, and barrette, writing, very publicly, the next great American novel—though I have to admit all of that sounds just awesome), I know that I will continue to take classes that will challenge me and my creativity so much of a challenge that I could give anybody in Starbuck right now a run for their money.